

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 AID-20 PC-15 CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2029

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 685

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: YOUTH PARA

REF: STATE 70302

1. SANAA IS SMALL POST (CURRENTLY ONLY TWO FSO' S) IN WHICH YOUTH CONTACTS ARE PART OF NORMAL DAY- TO- DAY ACTIVITIES RATHER THAN SEPARATE CATEGORY. FURTHERMORE, ALTHOUGH MOST YARG LEADERS ARE YOUNG, THERE ARE NO SEPARATE YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS AS SUCH. OUR ANSWERS BELOW TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS IN REFTEL RELATE TO THIS SETTING AND ALSO REFLECT PLANS FOR FUTURE WHEN EMBASSY IS FULLY STAFFED AND NOT SO HEAVILY ENGAGED IN DEALING WITH ESTABLISHMENT USG PRESENCE HERE.

2. YOUTH CATEGORIES.

A. FORTY PERCENT- YOUNG MILITARY OFFICEERS. THESE OFFICERS SHOW CONSIDERABLE MORE IMPATIENCE THAN THEIR SUPERIORS OVER POWER OF SHAIKHS AND COULD IN FUTURE IMPAIR WIDE CONSENSUS OF POLITICAL LEADERS OF VARYING PERSUASION THAT SURVIVAL OF MODERATE REPUBLIC DEPENDS ON THEIR POLITICAL COOPERATION HAVING AS ITS UNDERLYING BASE BALANCE OF STRENGTH BETWEEN ARMY AND TRIBAL FORCES.

B. THIRTY PERCENT - YOUNG BUREAUCRATS, PARTICULARLY VJI
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DEVELOPMENT ORIENTED MINISTRIES AND CENTRAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION. MANY OF THESE ARE EDUCATED IN EAST EUROPE AND REFLECT A " STATE- PLANNING" ORIENTATION IN THEIR THINKING.

C. TWENTY PERCENT- YOUNG LEADERSHIP AMONG " MODERATE LEFTIST" WHO FEEL EXCLUDED BY CURRENT GOVT. MANY IN THIS GROUP ARE STUDENTS.

D. TEN PERCENT- YOUNG TRIBAL SHAIKHS.

3. WE JUDGE THAT NONE OF THESE GROUPS, WHICH AT PRESENT ARE ESSENTIALLY LESS FAVORABLE TO USG THAN CURRENT YARG, ARE LIKELY TO HAVE A MAJOR IMPACT WITHIN NEXT TWO TO FOUR YEARS, BARRING AN EXTRA- CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT. YOUNG MILITARY OFFICERS, ALTHOUGH LESS FAVORABLE TO USG, ARE ALSO IN LARGE PART DISILLUSIONED WITH SOVIET ASSISTANCE TO YEMEN AND WOULD WELCOME WESTERN HELP. THEIR ATTITUDE AND THAT OF BUREACRATS TOWARDS USG WILL BE MORE CONDITIONED BY THEIR DOMESTICALLY POINTED DESIRE TO ESTABLISH A MORE MODERNIST, MORE POWERFUL AND LESS TRIBALLY- ORIENTED CENTRAL GOVT THAN BY FOREIGN IDEOLOGY. THEY TEND TO VIEW USG AS FAVORING FEUDALISTS, AN IMAGE WE CAN HELP TO CORRET BY OUR AID TO CENTRAL GOVT. THIS REMEDY IS LESS APPLICABLE TO " MODERATE LEFTISTS" WHO AT TIMES ARE WILLING TO COOPERATE PARTLY WITH CENTRAL GOVT, BUT WHO FREQUENTLY HAVE TIES TO BAATH (ESP SYRIAN) PARTY AND WHO VIEW USG MORE IN REGIONAL ARAB- ISRAELI CONTEXT.

3. OBJECTIVES

A. TWENTY PERCENT - UNDERSTAND AND FOLLOW INCIPIENT POLITICAL AND SOCIAL TRENDS.

B. TWENTY PERCENT - ENCOURAGE PRAGMATIC NON- IDEOLOGICAL APPROACHES TO NATIONAL PROBLEMS.

C. TWENTY PERCENT - INFLUENCE ATTITUDES ON SPECIFIC US INTERESTS IN COUNTRY.

D. TWENTY PERCENT - DEVELOP INFLUENTIAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH LEADERS OF POLITICALLY AWARE YOUTH AND WITH POTENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL

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FUTURE LEADERS.

E. TWENTY PERCENT - COUNTER ACTIVITIES OF FORCES HOSTILE TO U. S. INTERESTS.

F. OUR BASIC OBJECTIVE, FOR THOSE ELEMENTS OF YOUTH LEADERSHIP WHICH ARE NOT COMMITTED TO HOSTILITY

TOWARDS USG FOR IDEOLOGICAL OR CRASSER CONSIDERATIONS, IS TO CONVINCE THEM THAT WE FAVOR DEVELOPMENT OF STRONG MODERN CENTRAL GOVT AND ARE PROVIDING ASSISTANCE WITH THAT GOAL IN MIND. AT SAME TIME TRABAL POWER IN YEMEN IS UNDENIABLE REALITY. EXTENSION OF CENTRAL GOVT POWER OVER TRIBES MUST BE DONE GRADUALLY AND PRAGMATICALLY IN ACCORDANCE YARG' S OWN LIMITED CAPABILITIES AND MUST NOT IN PROCESS DESTROY MODERATE REPUBLICAN CONSENSUS ON WHICH YARG' S SURVIVAL HAS DEPENDED. BY CONTACTS WITH SUCH YOUTH ELEMENTS WE HOPE TO FOLLOW POLITICAL AND SOCIAL TRENDS AND IDENTIFY FUTURE LEADERS. WE ALSO HOPE TO COUNTER EFFECT OF ELEMENTS INTRINSICALLY HOSTILE TO U. S. INTERESTS.

4. RESOURCES

WE DO NOT ENVISAGE USING CU VISITOR OR ACADEMIC GRANTS SPECIFICALLY TO PROMOTE OUR YOUTH POLICY. ALTHOUGH AID TRAINING PROGRAMS, PC VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS AND OUR SMALL USIS ELT WILL OBVIOUSLY HAVE SOME EFFECT IN YOUTH FIELD, OUR MAIN EFFORT WILL NEED TO BE PERSONAL CONTACT WITH YOUTH ELEMENTS.

5. RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF YOUTH- ABOVE AVERAGE. YOUTH LEADERS ARE FREQUENTLY DISTINGUISHABLE ONLY BY POSITION FROM POLITICAL LEADERS WHO ARE YOUNG. THEY WILL PROBABLY BE ABSORBED SELECTIVELY INTO POLITICAL LEADERSHIP ON BASIS THEIR OWN ABILITY TO ADVANCE. ALTHOUGH LESS PATIENT AND SOMEWHAT MORE LEFTIST AS GROUP THAN PRESENT LEADERSHIP, WHERE TRIBAL ELEMENT IS MUCH STRONGER,
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